# Countdown

ISSUE NO.

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 20, 1971 5p

## DO FLYING SAUCERS EXIST ?

## UFO

FACT OR FICTION?

## FREE GIANT SPACEFACT WALLCHART with STAMPS

THE BEST OF TV SCIENCE FICTION

DOCTOR WHO

The secrets of SHADO

GERRY ANDERSON'S THUNDERBIRDS CAPTAIN SCARLET in ACTION-PACKED PICTURE STORIES!

# VOTE!

## CAST YOUR BALLOT FOR COUNTDOWN!

**Among the things we can put into COUNTDOWN are the television favourites listed below under Stories. Beyond this there are hundreds of subjects which may interest you. We have listed some possibilities under Features. Please number them in order of preference.**

### STORIES

- CAPTAIN SCARLET... ☐
- COUNTDOWN..... ☐
- DASTARDLY AND MUTTLEY..... ☐
- DR. WHO..... ☐
- FIREBALL XL5..... ☐
- JOE 90..... ☐
- LADY PENELOPE..... ☐
- THUNDERBIRDS..... ☐
- SECRET SERVICE..... ☐
- STINGRAY..... ☐
- UFO..... ☐
- ZERO-X..... ☐

### FEATURES

- AIRCRAFT, CARS AND BOATS..... ☐
- ASTRONOMY..... ☐
- COMPUTERS..... ☐
- INVENTIONS..... ☐
- PUZZLES AND GAMES..... ☐
- SCIENCE FICTION STORIES..... ☐
- SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES..... ☐
- SPACE AND ROCKETRY..... ☐
- SPORT..... ☐
- ..... ☐
- ..... ☐

**If you don't wish to mutilate your first issue of COUNTDOWN, list your preferences on a postcard and send it to:**

***COUNTDOWN VOTE***
***Polystyle Publications***
***382-386 Edgware Road***
***London W2***

# SOVIET ROCKETS

Millions of Russians watch the launching of *Soyuz 9* on May 28, 1970, via the *Molniya* communications satellites.

## VOSTOK LIFT-OFF

A Vostok booster lifts off from a pad at Tyuratam spaceport east of the Aral Sea. The first manned Vostok flight was in 1963; modified Vostok boosters are now used to launch probes to the moon and Venus. The *Venus 7* probe reached the planet on December 15, 1970, after a 120-day flight covering 320 million kilometres. The descent craft was cooled to -8°C before entry to combat the 400°C surface temperature but, like previous Venus probes, it did not survive the extreme heat and pressure. Signals were received for only 35 minutes during the parachute descent.

# countdown...BEGINS!

382-386 Edgware Road,
Paddington Green, London W2

- BIG COMPLETE UFO STORY
- THUNDERBIRDS!
- DR. WHO and other great stories
- ARTICLES ON SPACE!
- GAMES AND PUZZLES!

Hello.
First, I'd better introduce myself. I'm Dennis Hooper, the editor of COUNTDOWN, the comic I sincerely hope you're going to take to in a big, big way. Why buy COUNTDOWN? Well, amongst other things we have the best and most expensive kind of printing—photogravure. And Sun Printers print important magazines like TV Times and the Sunday Times supplement.
What other comic offers you all of Gerry Anderson's popular TV series, from Thunderbirds to Stingray (we can't get them all into one issue), Dr. Who and those two villainous nutcases Dastardly and Muttley? Also I've lined up such great artists as Gerry Haylock, Harry Lindfield and John Burns.
And what about that gift? Even if you're not the brightest guy in the world it will sure look good on the bedroom wall to impress your pals. Finally, any time you'd like to drop me a line suggesting new additions to COUNTDOWN I'd be happy to hear from you. Until then, I hope you feel you've had your five pence worth with COUNTDOWN.

Dennis Hooper

## THINGS TO COME!

### The World of GERRY ANDERSON

**How can you possibly get all of Gerry Anderson's wonderful film series into one comic? Not very easily. That's why COUNTDOWN is going to spread them over many issues. Week by week you'll be able to follow the adventures of Stingray, Lady Penelope, Joe 90, Captain Scarlet, Thunderbirds, Secret Service, Fireball XL5 and his latest and greatest—UFO.**

### THIS WEEK'S CONTENTS

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**STORIES**

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| Dastardly and Muttley | 17 |
| UFO (5-page complete story) | 15 |
| Thunderbirds (serial) | 8 |
| Countdown (serial) | 4 |
| Captain Scarlet (serial) | 2 |

## WHAT A GIFT!

## AND MORE TO COME!

**You can collect 24 space fact stamps in all. The first four you'll find with your wall chart so for the next five weeks buy COUNTDOWN and collect the remaining 20.** Here are some suggestions on keeping your wall chart up to date. As new landings are made on the moon, mark their location using the grid of lunar latitude and longitude. Discoveries on the invisible far side of the moon can also be marked. You'll want to make additions to the "History of Men in Space" and these can be made on a separate piece of paper mounted alongside your wall chart.

# DR. WHO
## GEMINI PLAN

ART: HARRY LINDFIELD
© BBC tv 1971

HIGH ON A WELSH MOUNTAINSIDE A SINGLE LIGHT TWINKLES FROM THE WINDOW OF A BARN ADJOINING A DERELICT FARMHOUSE

THAT SHOULD DO IT

W.D. PROPERTY KEEP OUT

INSIDE THE BARN A STRANGELY CLAD FIGURE TINKERS AT AN UNTIDY WORKBENCH

YES I THINK THAT WILL DO VERY NICELY

THANKS TO THE BRIGADIER I'VE HAD TWO DAYS' UNINTERRUPTED WORK A FEW MORE MINUTES AND I COULD BE RID OF THIS WRETCHED PLANET

CAN I BEAT THE TIME LORDS? ONLY THE NEXT FEW SECONDS WILL TELL

WITH THE STRANGE TRUMPETING SOUND OF SOME DISTANT PRIMEVAL BEAST THE TARDIS DEMATERIALIZES

IT'S WORKING

THE DOCTOR'S TRIUMPH IS SHORT-LIVED

WHAT THE DEVIL'S THIS?

WITH A BONE JARRING THUD THE TARDIS FINALLY COMES TO REST

PHEW! I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO BELIEVE I COULD BEAT THEM I MUST BE BACK IN THE BARN

BUT THE DOCTOR SURMISES WRONGLY

FOR THE NEXT HALF AN HOUR DR. WHO SYSTEMATICALLY CHECKS THE SEEMINGLY LIFELESS SYSTEM

A BLOW-BACK FROM THE ELEMENT IT WILL TAKE WEEKS TO FIND THE BROKEN CIRCUIT

I CAN'T JUST STAY HERE BETTER FIND MY BEARINGS AND LOCALITY

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA NO TIME DEVIATION I DON'T HAVE MUCH ALTERNATIVE BUT TO FIND THE NEAREST CIVILISATION

AND SO DR. WHO SETS OUT

THE TEMPERATURE MUST BE AT LEAST FORTY FIVE

EACH TREELESS MILE FOLLOWS ANOTHER...

I REALLY DO SEEM TO HAVE LANDED MYSELF IN IT THIS TIME WHAT IS OVER THIS HILL?

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT THE DOCTOR WONDERS WHETHER HE'S SUFFERING FROM THE HUMAN DELUSION OF A MIRAGE

WELL WHAT'S THIS ?

SO ENGROSSED IS HE THAT THE MOVEMENT BEHIND HIM GOES UNNOTICED

STAND EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE AND DO NOT MOVE!

Follow Dr. WHO on BBC TV every Saturday

To be continued

**£1 and an answer for each letter printed**

# THINK TANK!

***YOU ASK THE QUESTIONS— WE FIND THE ANSWERS***

*ADDRESS YOUR LETTERS TO.*
**Think Tenk, Countdown Polystyle Publiications 382-386 Edgwere Road London W2**

**Each week on this pege I'll print letters, news items, puzzles, end pictures. Write in with your questions on eny subject, scientific or mechenicel—I'll try to enswer the best ones but due to the volume of mail, I cannot enswer each letter individuelly. Your comments will be our guide to improving COUNTDOWN.**

**Robin Hilborn, Assistant Editor**

**Q** *If the Van Allen belt is filled with dangerous radiation, why haven't astronauts been killed by it?*

**Austin Swain**
**Northfields, Birmingham**

**A** All astronauts in earth orbit have flown lower than the Inner Zone, which is 3,000 miles high. The altitude record for manned flight in earth orbit is 851 miles. This was reached by Gemini 11 on September 14, 1966. Lunar astronauts pass through the belt at over 20,000 miles per hour, too fast for any harm to be done.

**Q** *Can you tell me something about the Piltdown man? Was he the missing link?*

**Peter Sullivan**
**Harpenden, Herts**

**A** The remains of a skeleton were found in Piltdown, Sussex, in 1908 and consisted of a skull and a jaw-bone. The Piltdown skeleton was supposed to have been an example of an early ancestor of man, named Eoanthropus. He was put forward as the "missing link" in the evolution of apes into man. The experts were fooled for 43 years: in 1951 "Piltdown man" was shown to be a hoax. The skull is that of a modern man, possibly from the Middle Ages, and the jaw-bone belongs to a orang-utan.

**Q** *Will men be able to walk on Venus just as they walk on the moon?*

**Ivor Jones**
**Swansea**

**A** The two Russian Venus probes of 1969 sent back bad news for Venusian astronauts: the surface temperature is 400°C and, as if that isn't bad enough, the atmospheric pressure is 100 times as great as on earth. An astronaut might possibly survive in an extremely strong vehicle, like the diving bells used to explore the bottom of earth's oceans.

## Are we losing or gaining time?

**Due to the moon's tidal drag, the length of the earth day increases irregularly at an average rate of two milliseconds per century (a millisecond is a thousandth of a second). In other words, our speed of rotation is slowing down.**

**85 million years ago, in the Late Cretaceous Period, the earth rotated faster and so there were 370 3 days per year. The "good old days" were a half hour shorter than today's days.**

*"Remind me not to have peas with my steak tomorrow!"*

## THE TEAM THING

It takes teamwork to get a supersonic airliner off the ground. This picture of the men—and a handful of women—that built Concorde was taken at Fairford, Gloucestershire just after a recent 1350 mph flight. Out front—test pilot Brian Trubshaw and co-pilot John Cochrane.

We're looking for more examples of teamwork. Do you have a class project, a science club or a neighbourhood project? Perhaps your specialty is archaeology, coin collecting, weather forecasting, mountain climbing or model making. Whatever it is, write and tell us about it: COUNTDOWN will publish the most interesting group projects. Here's your chance for national publicity!

You may want to take this opportunity to start a group; for example, a Skywatchers Club. Your observations could include weather conditions, aircraft, satellites, and astronomical phenomena. If you wish to include UFO observations, reporting procedures are given in this week's feature "Do Flying Saucers Exist?".

**LINKWORD ANSWERS**

**1** Bobby Moore, Captain **2** United or City **3** Third Div. Lancashire **4** The Millionaires **5** The Magpies **6** 4th Div. Devonshire

**1** American apaca craft **2** What satellites do **3** Instrument used to study the stars **4** Our planet **5** NASA H.Q. in Texas **6** A major planet of the solar system **7** ... Bird, a satellite

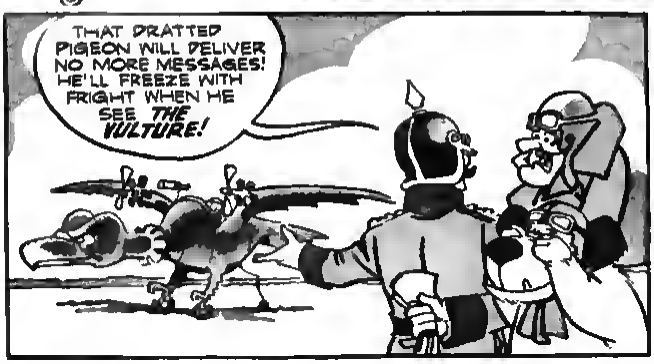
**COUNTDOWN LINKWORD**

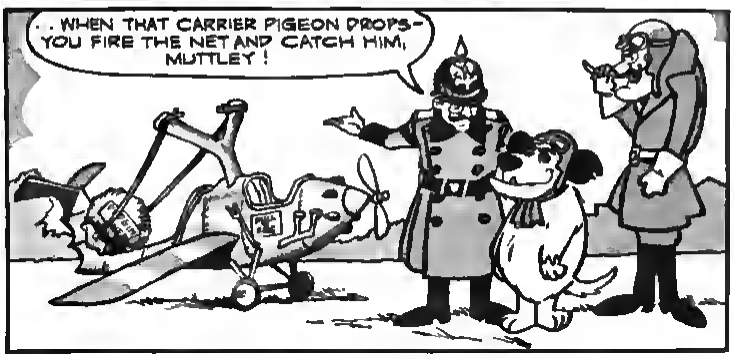
By solving the first clue, you will see that the final letter is in a heavy box that must be filled by the first letter of the second clue and so on until the chain is completed.

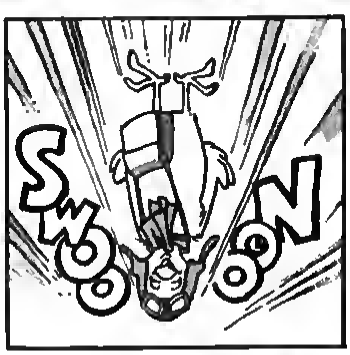
**COUNTDOWN LINKWORD**

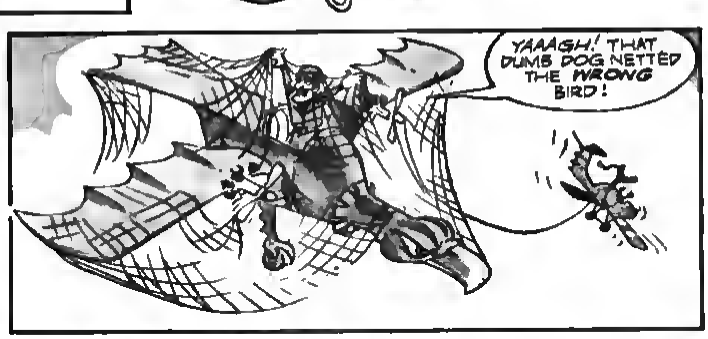
**Solutions: Apollo, orbit, telescope, earth, Houston, Neptune, Early flight also: Westham, Manchester, Rochdale, Everton, Newcastle, Exeter**

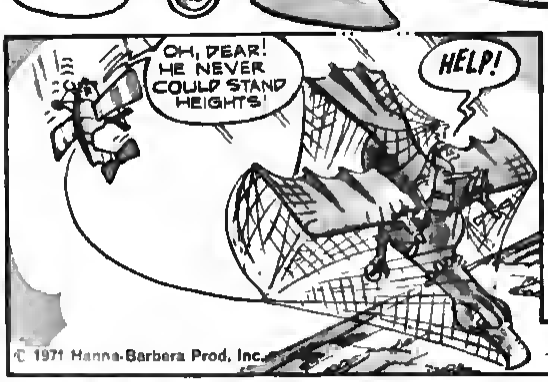
# DASTARDLY AND MUTTLEY

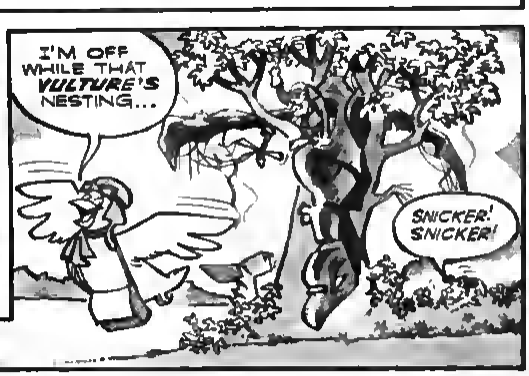






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# DO FLYING SAUCERS EXIST?

***On the next seven pages is a story from the future, but UFO's are happening right now, in 1971. What do we know about this strange phenomenon? Here are the facts.***

**by Robin Hilborn**

It was a dark November evening in Sacramento, California. Heavy clouds covered the city. At 6.30 the first report came in—a brilliant light was seen to penetrate the clouds from above, followed by a cigar-shaped craft with four large wings. Its powerful searchlight played over the city for about 30 minutes. Residents rushed to their windows as the huge glow passed overhead, heading south for San Francisco.

This incident did not happen during the flying saucer "craze" of the 1950's, but on November 17, 1896. And it was not an isolated incident. The Sacramento Valley airship (as the press reports called it) was seen in Oakland on November 20, in San Francisco on November 22 and in other cities.

On November 28, a Professor H. B. Worcester and his house guests saw an airship headed south over San Jose. "When the ship turned to the south-east I could distinguish two lights, one behind the other," said Prof. Worcester. "The single light first seen was about the size of an engine headlight and had the appearance of a large incandescent light." He estimated the light to be travelling at 60 to 100 miles an hour; its bobbing motion had suggested the flapping of wings.

## *SOMETHING UNKNOWN*

It seems something genuinely unknown was seen by thousands of Californian citizens in late 1896, something which cannot be explained by twinkling stars, mirages or unusual cloud formations. There was no airship in existence at the time which could perform as did the Sacramento Valley airship. And the flights continued: during 1897 there were hundreds of such sightings in 17 states from California to Ohio.

This is just one of many examples of a phenomenon that has a long history. It is a common misconception that "flying saucers" started in 1947 but this is just the year when the United States government started taking serious notice of the many unexplained happenings in the sky.

## *THE UFO STORY BEGINS*

Officially, the UFO story begins on June 24, 1947. A businessman named Kenneth Arnold was flying his private plane near Mt. Ranier, in the north-western United States. Arnold, a veteran pilot with thousands of hours flying experience, spotted a chain of nine bright disc-shaped objects 20 miles away, darting about the peaks of Mt. Ranier. He said they moved like "a saucer skipping across water". Newspaper reporters decided to call the objects "flying saucers" and so the name was born.

Today, a flying saucer can be anything seen in the sky which is out of the ordinary—it can be an object, a light, or a formation of lights, of any colour or shape, travelling fast or slow, hovering or disappearing instantly. The United States Air Force, of course, frowned on the name "flying saucer"; instead, they invented "unidentified flying object" or UFO (pronounced yoo-foe).

Since that day in 1947 the Air Force has been keenly interested in reports of strange aerial objects. Thousands of sightings have been analysed and explained to be natural phenomena. Yet hundreds of other sightings, including the skipping discs over Mt. Ranier, remain a mystery—they are "unknown".

## *PROJECT BLUE BOOK*

The Air Force was soon inundated with UFO reports from all corners of the United States. Project Blue Book was set up to collect and evaluate reports and make the official conclusion about the nature of the sighting. In the record year of 1952, the Blue Book staff investigated 1,501 reports—more than four a day—and during the rest of the decade an average of 500 a year.

More recently, officially-reported sightings have dropped off because of public dissatisfaction with Air Force methods (a subject that will be discussed in a later issue). UFO observations continue today but are unpublicised except in relatively unknown journals such as *Flying Saucer Review* (London) and *Lumieres dans la Nuit* (Le Chambon-sur-Lignon).

What are the possible explanations of UFO's? In Part 3 of the UFO story we'll look at another sighting and show how Project Blue Book tackled the problem. This sighting is famous in UFO history because an Air Force pilot died trying to reach a flying saucer. And next week, in Part 2, the investigation into the Santa Ana saucer (see below).

## *IF YOU SEE A UFO...*

**Observe carefully, then write a sighting report containing the following details: location of the observer (nearest town, etc.), what the object looked like (colour and shape) with a sketch if possible, direction it was moving, time and date of the observation, weather conditions, and names and addresses of other witnesses (if you know them). Post your report to *Flying Saucer Review*, 21 Cecil Court, Charing Cross Road, London WC2.**

# The SANTA ANA SIGHTING

**On August 3, 1965 at 12.30 p.m. near Santa Ana, California, Rae Heflin was sitting in his lorry trying to get the two-way radio to work. Mr. Heflin is a highway inspector for the Orange County Highways Department. He was going to report some tree limbs obstructing a railway crossing sign when suddenly his radio went completely dead.**

**Then he caught sight of a flying object moving slowly from his left toward the road ahead. It hovered and Mr. Heflin saw it was a disc with a domed top which reflected sunlight like a metallic object. It made no sound. He grabbed his Model 101 Polaroid camera (which was used to record road hazards) and photographed the disc through the windscreen (see picture).**

**The object moved slowly over the road and off to the right and Mr. Heflin took a second photo through the right front window, and then a third. He reported that the object appeared about 30 feet in diameter and travelled level at about 150 feet altitude. It wobbled slightly like a gyroscope losing its stability but then gained stability as it increased its speed and altitude.**

**A smoke-like ring of vapour floated in the air after the object was gone. The highway inspector drove about two-thirds of a mile down the road to where the blue-black smoke ring still hung in the sky and photographed it. After the strange object left the area the two-way radio was working perfectly. Mr. Heflin said he thought it was some kind of experimental aircraft from the Marine air base nearby.**

**The story came to light a few days later when the co-publisher of *The Santa Ana Register*, Mr. C. B. Mallon, saw copies of the Polaroid prints in a drugstore owned by a friend of his. After many telephone calls Mr. Heflin was located and persuaded to bring the original photos to *The Register* office.**

*In next week's issue: the other three photographs plus the official and unofficial evaluations of the Santa Ana sighting.*

GERRY ANDERSON'S

# UFO

THE YEAR IS 1980. IT HAS NOW BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT HOSTILE VISITORS FROM DEEP SPACE ARE REACHING THE EARTH IN MACHINES CODE-NAMED UFOs

ART: JON DAVIS

© 1971 CENTURY 21 M. LTD.

S.H.A.D.O. SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALIEN DEFENCE ORGANISATION HAS BEEN SET UP TO DETECT AND INVESTIGATE THE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS. FIRST LINE OF DEFENCE IS MOONBASE

THE MOONBASE CONTROLLERS PICK UP A SIGNAL

'RED ALERT' COMPUTER SIO HAS CONTACT UFO BEARING 342-0470

'WE HAVE UFO ON POSITIVE TRACK' INTERCEPTORS IMMEDIATE LAUNCH'

SID, SPACE INTRUDER DETECTOR, RELAYS FINAL POSITIONING OF THE VISITOR. THEN

UFO SPEED S.O.L. ZERO DECIMAL EIGHT. PREDICT INTERCEPTORS IN RANGE IN SEVENTY SECONDS

THE THREE INTERCEPTORS ATTACK

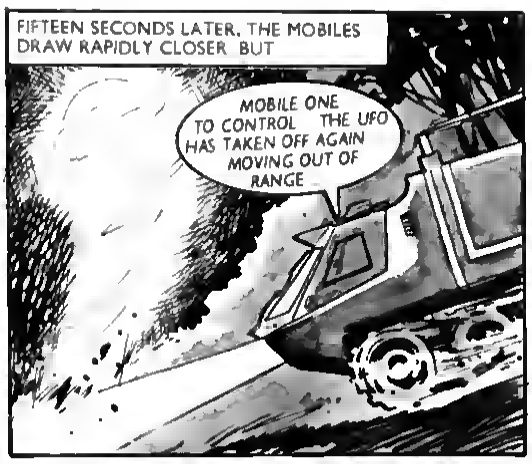
BUT THE UFO AVOIDS THE DEADLY MISSILES

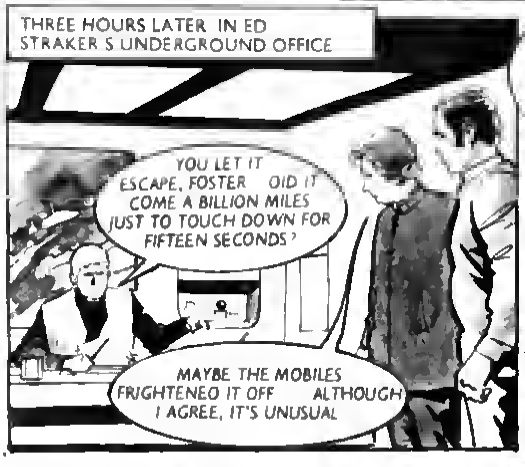
BENEATH THE HARLINGTON STRAKER FILM STUDIO, SHADO SUPREME COMMANDER EDWARD STRAKER HEARS THE NEWS

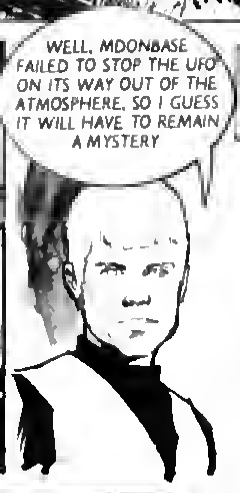
IT GOT THROUGH! WE MISSED IT!

ALERT THE MOBILES. WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT ALIEN!

PART OF THE EARTH DEFENCE SYSTEMS, THE SHADO MOBILES CLOSE IN TO THE UFO'S ESTIMATED LANDING POSITION


FIFTEEN SECONDS LATER, THE MOBILES DRAW RAPIDLY CLOSER BUT
MOBILE ONE TO CONTROL THE UFO HAS TAKEN OFF AGAIN MOVING OUT OF RANGE

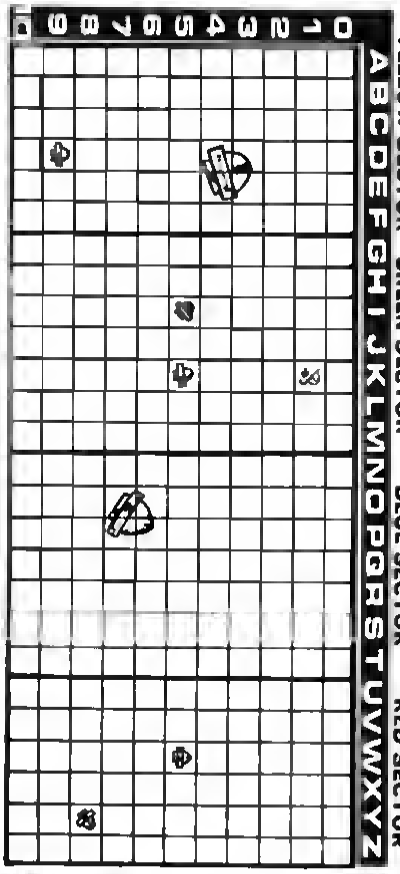

THREE HOURS LATER IN ED STRAKER S UNDERGROUND OFFICE
YOU LET IT ESCAPE, FOSTER OID IT COME A BILLION MILES JUST TO TOUCH DOWN FOR FIFTEEN SECONDS?
MAYBE THE MOBILES FRIGHTENED IT OFF ALTHOUGH I AGREE, IT'S UNUSUAL



DURING THE NEXT HOUR, MANY MESSAGES AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION CROSS ALEC FREEMAN'S DESK
PROFESSOR ROBINSON OF THE CENTRAL SPACE UNIVERSITY HAS NOT REPORTED FOR DUTY, COLONEL
DOCTOR SINSTAD IS ALSO OVERDUE THAT'S ODD

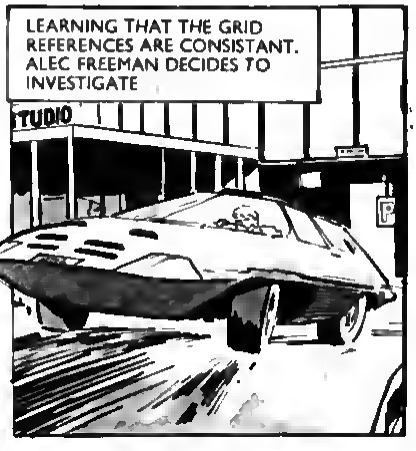
## SEEK AND DESTROY

KEEP SCORE




**INSTRUCTIONS**

On page 9 is a similar grid; with a friend try being the first to K.O. the other's UFOs. Each one has 8 UFOs (2 big, 6 small). Take turns at guessing where the other's UFOs are (a big UFO takes 4 hits to destroy it.) Mark guesses by a diagonal line across the square; play a second game by marking the other diagonal. Place at least one UFO in each of the colour sectors.

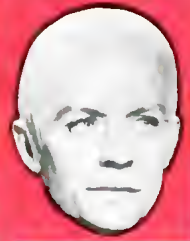


THE COLONEL SOON REACHES THE SPOT WHERE THE UFO HAD LANDED THAT MORNING
TOO DARK TO BE CERTAIN, BUT I M SURE THESE TRACKS ARE FRESH

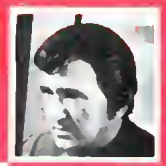
ALL IS SILENT AS FREEMAN APPROACHES THE CRUMBLING WALLS THEN SUDDENLY
AAGH!
AS HIS SENSES REEL, FREEMAN MANAGES TO AIM WILDLY WITH HIS GUN
BUT HE DOES NOT SEE THE GREEN LIQUID ESCAPE FROM THE HELMET WHICH IS BOTH LIFE AND AIR TO THE ALIEN
MEANWHILE, BACK AT HARLINGTON STRAKER
THE COLONEL LEFT TWO HOURS AGO HE SHOULD HAVE REPORTED IN BY NOW
FOSTER I WANT YOU TO BEGIN A SEARCH I DON'T LIKE THE SMELL OF THIS!
AND SO
ROGER. MOBILE ONE WE HAVE NO FURTHER NEWS FROM COLONEL FREEMAN
A LITTLE LATER
FOOTPRINTS LEAD TO MERSHAM ABBEY I'M GOING INTO THE RUINS NOW
BUT THEN
AN ALIEN!
URGH! MY SHOULDER!
PAIN FORCES FOSTER INTO THE LUXURY OF SENSELESSNESS
THE SUN IS HIGH BEFORE HE RECOVERS TO THE INSISTENT VOICE OF STRAKER
CONTROL TO FOSTER COME IN, PAUL
SLIGHT MISHAP COMMANDER AN ALIEN MUST HAVE BEEN HIDING IN THE RUINS HE DIDN'T HAVE A HELMET!
OKAY, PAUL, GET BACK HERE I RECKON WE HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF GRABBING THAT ALIEN, AND A COMPLETE UFO!
BACK AT BASE ED STRAKER EXPLAINS
THE UFO DROPPED OFF THAT ALIEN TO KIDNAP PROFESSOR ROBINSON AND DOCTOR SINSTAD AND HE WAS SUCCEEDING UNTIL HE MET YOU
BUT WHAT ABOUT ALEC FREEMAN?
THE ALIEN MUST'VE PICKED HIM UP AS AN EXTRA PRIZE NOW WE'D BETTER GET READY FOR ANOTHER VISITOR FROM SPACE
IT WILL HAVE TO BE A BIGGER UFO THAN WE'VE SEEN BEFORE THAT ALIEN CAN'T STAY TOO LONG WITHOUT HIS PROTECTIVE LIQUID
EXACTLY! IN FACT WE CAN COMPUTE JUST WHEN THAT UFO MUST ARRIVE TO SAVE THE ALIEN
A FIVE MAN CRAFT! THAT'S WHY THE ALIEN TRIED TO KILL ME I WOULD HAVE BEEN ONE PASSENGER TOO MANY
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS ALERT MOONBASE AND WAIT

# The secrets of SHADO

Harrington-Streker Film Studio houses the secret HQ of SHADO.



Colonel Edward Streker (left), Supreme Commander of SHADO



Colonel A. C. Freeman (above), SHADO second-in-command

Major Paul J. Foster (left) top SHADO operative, authorised to command any SHADO defence system

## SPACE-LINK

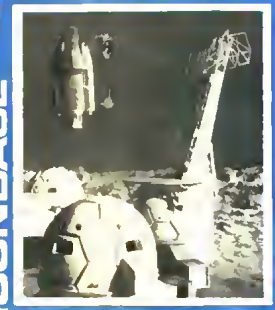
## S.I.D. SPACE INTRUDER DETECTOR

SPACE INTRUDER DETECTOR, the eyes and ears of earth, detects and reports UFO activity completing the three-pronged SHADO defences including MOONBASE and SHADO control, in earth orbit directly opposite the moon

S.H.A.D.O.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALIEN DEFENCE ORGANISATION

## MOONBASE



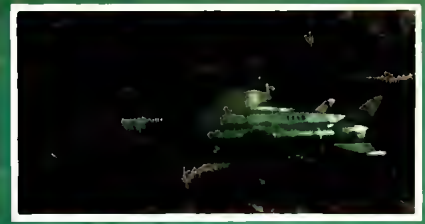
MOONBASE, lunar HQ and base for three UFO INTERCEPTORS, one of the five pressurised domes is the Control Sphere

Space Tracker (below) at the Control Sphere monitoring post.

The only earth-moon transport, earth ferry, makes a landing at MOONBASE

## Earth's major defence system

## SKYDIVER



SKYDIVER (above), amazing nuclear submarine capable of high speed travel submerged or above the surface in hovercraft mode.

Peter Karlin (below) captain of SKYDIVER.

## SKY 1

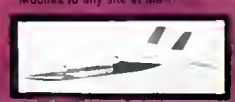
SKY 1 (above) version of SKYDIVER launched underwater, combines supersonic speed with great fire-power

## DESTROY!

## SHADAIR

The SHADO air fleet. Above the lifting body that carries the earth-moon ferry to the limit of the atmosphere

Shadair Transporter carries Mobiles to any site at Mach 1



Supersonic passenger jet equipped for automated landing.

## SHADO MOBILES

MOBILES—all-purpose vehicle to investigate UFO landings in any certain condition.

Harrington-Streker Film Studios builders, used for secret ground transport of SHADO Mobiles Mobiles top speed 50 mph (land) 30 knots (water)

## SHADO CARS

SHADO cars, 200 mph personal vehicles.

Used by Straker, Foster and Freeman, special feature "gull-wing" doors for quick entry.

## INTERCEPTORS

INTERCEPTORS (above), lunar strike power with computer-assisted missile; housed sub-surface in craters, they prevent UFO's from entering earth's atmosphere.

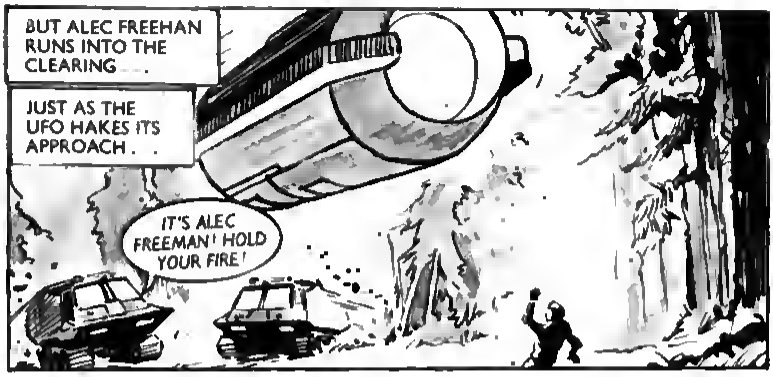
MOONMOBILE (left) moon-based vehicle for lunar surface transport of men and equipment.

## SEEK and DESTROY!

Aliens, humanoid in form, home planet unknown, high-speed and long-duration space journeys are accomplished in liquid suspension which imparts a greenish tinge to the skin

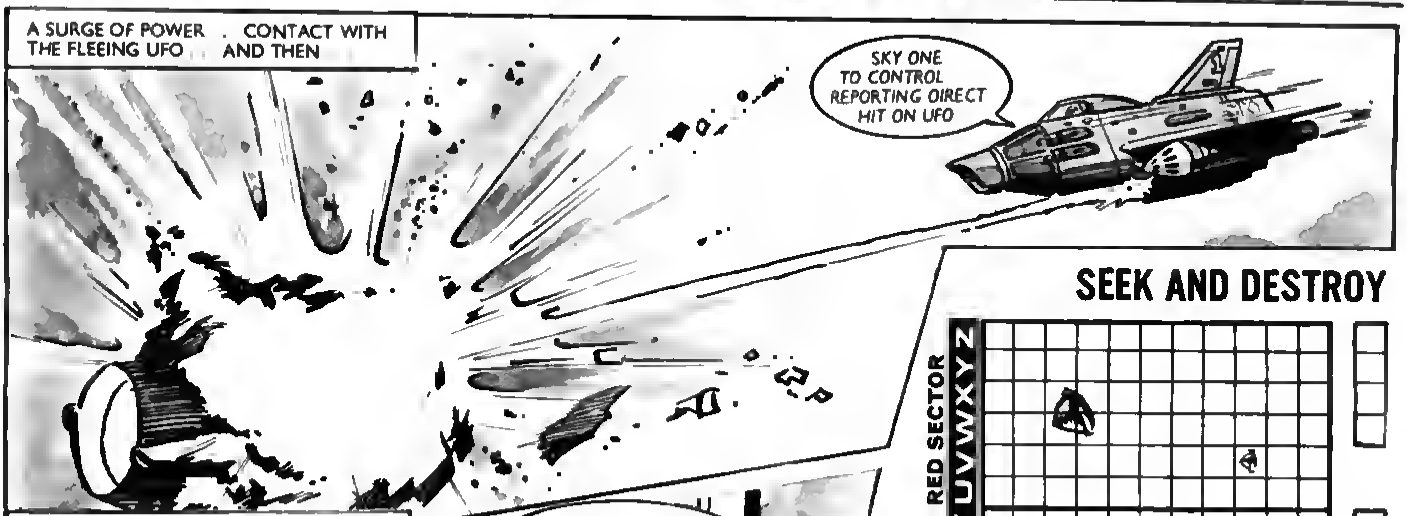
# The PEOPLE...the MACHINES...that defend EARTH... Against the ALIENS

THE ORDERS ARE RELAYED TO MOONBASE THEN
UFO CONTACT ESTABLISHED.
YELLOW ALERT MOONBASE ON STANDBY NO ACTION TO INTERCEPT
AT FANTASTIC SPEED, THE UFO STREAKS TOWARDS EARTH
BUT MOONBASE AND MAIN CONTROL HAVE NOT COUNTED ON THE REGULAR FERRYSHIP WHICH TRANSPORTS SUPPLIES TO THE MOON
HEY, LUKE I'VE GOT A UFO READING
MOONBASE MUST HAVE MISSED IT PREPARE THE MISSILES!
THE FERRY'S FIREPOWER IS FOR DEFENCE BUT THE MISSILES CAUSE THE UFO TO CHANGE COURSE
SECONDS LATER
THE TIME PASSES
MOBILES FROM CONTROL UFO APPROACHING AREA NOW!
SOMETHING'S DELAYED IT THAT SHIP SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE BY NOW
STRAKER UNAWARE OF THE BATTLE IN SPACE PLANS THE UFO'S CAPTURE...
MOBILES ONE TWO AND THREE TO ABBEY RUINS UFO TOUCHDOWN ESTIMATED IN FIVE MINUTES
MEANWHILE, COLONEL ALEC FREEMAN HAS MANAGED TO LOOSEN HIS BONDS
HE MUST BE AS WEAK AS A KITTEN I'VE GOT TO TAKE MY CHANCE
FREEMAN RUNS

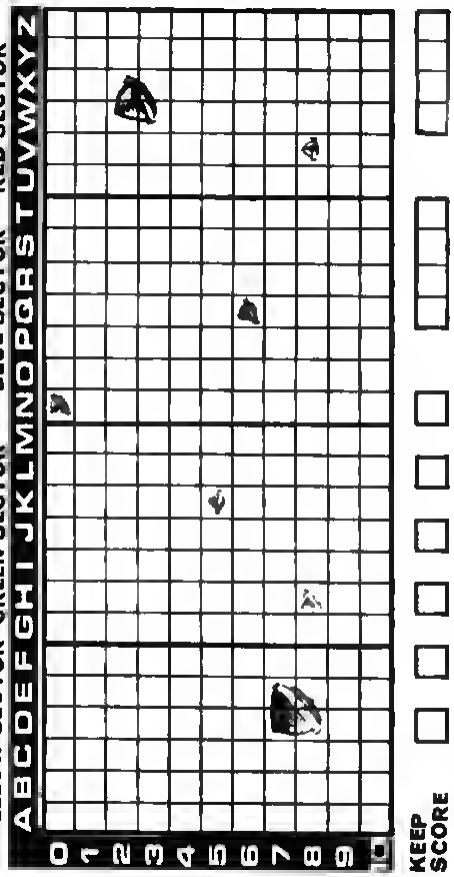


NEXT SECOND, THE UFO VEERS OFF AT TREMENDOUS SPEED . . .
MOBILE ONE TO CONTROL. UFO DESTRUCT NEGATIVE.
CONTROL TO SKYDIVER. LAUNCH SKY ONE. TARGET UFO. SEEK AND DESTROY!

SHADO'S MAIN LINE OF ATMOSPHERE DEFENCE PREPARES TO GO INTO ACTION . . .
THE FORWARD SECTION OF THE VESSEL SEPARATES AND SKY 1 IS AIRBORNE .
SKY ONE STAND BY FOR LIFT-OFF!




## SEEK AND DESTROY



LATER THAT DAY, COMMANDER STRAKER HOLDS A BLISTERING CONFERENCE . . .
ONE DEAD ALIEN AND ONE DESTROYED UFO TO SHOW FOR THE BEST CHANCE WE'VE HAD OF A POSITIVE CAPTURE.
BUT, SIR WE WEREN'T TO KNOW THE FERRYSHIP WOULD INTERCEPT AND DELAY THE UFO
AND I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE OUT THERE WAITING FOR IT!
O.K., CALM DOWN. I KNOW IT WAS JUST BAD LUCK BUT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SO EASY!
AND WE DID STOP THE ALIENS TAKING THREE TOP MEN . . . AND THAT'S OUR JOB TO DEFEND EARTH!

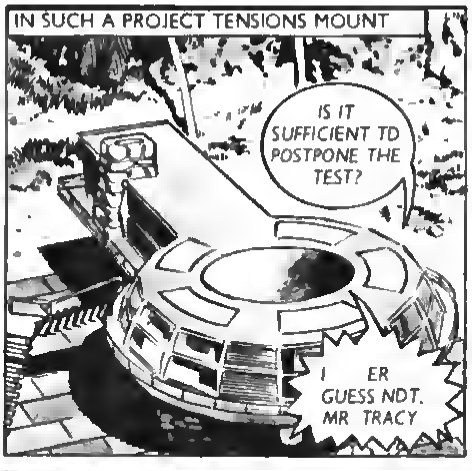
ANY ORGANISATION, HOWEVER SOPHISTICATED THEIR HARDWARE MAY BE NEEDS TIME TO DEVELOP NEW IDEAS IN SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY INTERNATIONAL RESCUE IS NO EXCEPTION. ONE SUCH PROJECT IS ABOUT TO BEGIN
ALL SYSTEMS CHECKED
THUNDERBIRDS
ART: DON HARLEY
© 1971 CENTURY 21 M. LTD.

A NEW AUTOMATIC GROUND CONTROL SYSTEM FOR THE GIANT NUCLEAR-ENGINED THUNDERBIRD 3 IS ABOUT TO BE TESTED
COUNTDOWN AT THIRTY-FIVE SECONDS, DAD
EVERYTHING'S GOING SMOOTHLY SO FAR ANY PROBLEMS BRAINS?

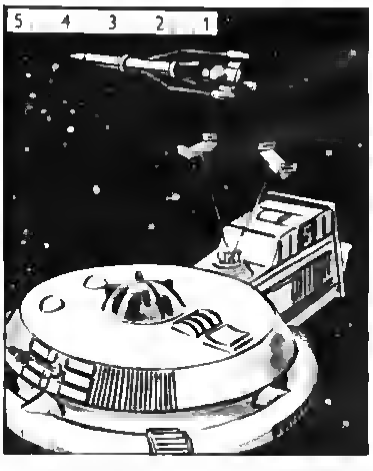
ER ONLY A LITTLE INTERFERENCE ON THE C-COMMUNICATIONS, MR TRACY THAT RECENT SUNSPOT ACTIVITY I ER SUPPOSE RADIATION LEVEL IS FLUCTUATING

## THE NEW SYSTEM

**The Thunderbird remote guidance system depends on a magnetic beam projected from Tracy Island to TB3. Onboard magnetic sensors direct the ship down the beam to a safe landing. The system is intended to avoid all types of radio communication failure.**



COUNTDOWN AT SEVEN SECONDS
THEN I SUGGEST WE CUT THIS PRIMA-DONNA ACT AND GET ON WITH IT THIS LULL IN RESCUE ACTIVITY ISN'T GOING TO LAST FOREVER!



SEVERAL HOURS LATER, NINETY-THREE MILLION MILES AWAY ON THE SURFACE OF THE SUN, A PARTICULARLY VIOLENT PROMINENCE EXPLODES OUT INTO SPACE

Continued on page 6.

*And Brooke Bond launches*

## 'THE RACE INTO SPACE'!

It's the greatest 'space spectacular' yet—Brooke Bond's fantastic new FREE picture card series! 50 beautiful full-colour cards!

Bigger-than-ever illustrated album! All created by British space experts! Every important detail of space-flight included! From Sputnik I to exciting future space-plans! Album introduced by Patrick Moore!

Start collecting YOUR space series right now

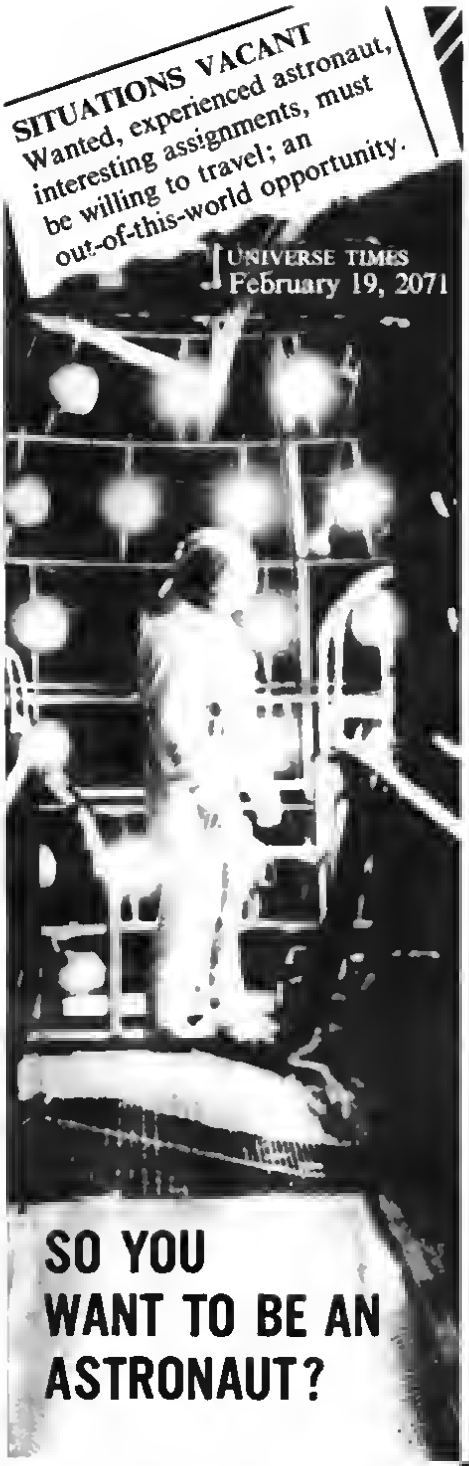
**BIG NEW ALBUM 5(1/-)p**
at grocers and supermarkets

Or send 5p (1/-) postal order to Brooke Bond Picture Cards P.O. Box 683 Parkway House, Sheen Lane, London, S.W.14.

**FREE!** Remember—your *Race into Space* picture cards are FREE in packets of Brooke Bond Tea and Tea Bags. So give Mum her count-down before the shops shut!

BROOKE BOND O·X·O LTD

IT TAKES JUST EIGHT-AND-A-HALF MINUTES FOR THE HIGH ENERGY RADIATION TO REACH EARTH . . .
ALAN . CAN YOU HEAR ME?
FOUR MINUTES TWENTY-SIX SECONDS TO RE-ENTRY . THAT INTERFERENCE . . CAN YOU HEAR ME, OAD?
SPEED INCREASING.
GRIEF . . . MORE SOLAR ACTIVITY. OAD . ALAN . . .
COMMUNICATIONS ARE TRANSFERRED TO MICRO-BANDS
THANK GOODNESS . . CHECK OTHER SYSTEMS. BRAINS!
ALL O.K., MR. TRACY
WISH THAT WERE TRUE HERE, OAD . . . THE RADIATION COUNT IS STILL INCREASING
THE TB3 PILOT CONFIRMS HIS BROTHER'S FINDINGS
O.K. ALAN. BETTER USE YOUR RADIATION SHIELD.
MY READING'S ABOVE TOLERATION WOW! AT THIS LEVEL THE NEW WORKS IS GETTING REAL GOOD TESTING
ALAN OPERATES ONE OF THE THOUSAND CONTROLS THAT SURROUND HIM AND . . .
SUDDENLY THE SHIELD'S SMOOTH DESCENT IS HALTED . . .
PROBLEMS, OAD . THE MECHANISM SEEMS TO HAVE JAMMED. I'D BETTER CHECK IT
O.K. ALAN. BUT WORK FAST. YOUR RE-ENTRY IS IMMINENT.
IN HIS WEIGHTLESS CONDITION ALAN TRACY DRIFTS UPWARDS TO THE IN-ACTIVE SHIELD . . .
THE CIRCUIT SEEMS ALL RIGHT . . . LET'S SEE WHAT A LITTLE BRUTE FORCE WILL DO
BUT THE ASTRONAUT IS UNPREPARED WHEN THE MECHANISM RE-ACTIVATES . . .
AAAGH!
SECONDS LATER JOHN TRACY REPORTS TO HIS FATHER . . .
I'VE USED THE TRACKING CAMERA, DAD. ALAN'S LYING UNCONSCIOUS OUTSIDE THE RADIATION SHIELD . . . AND THE LEVEL IS STILL INCREASING.
IF HIS APPROACH SPEED ISN'T CORRECTED . HE'LL BE MADE JELLY BY THE G-FORCE


SITUATIONS VACANT
Wanted, experienced astronaut, interesting assignments, must be willing to travel; an out-of-this-world opportunity.
UNIVERSE TIMES
February 19, 2071

# SO YOU WANT TO BE AN ASTRONAUT?

## ● SPACE SHUTTLE

## U.K. STUDIES UNDER WAY

**New astronauts will be needed to man NASA's Space Shuttle, the transportation system of the future. Starting in 1977 the Shuttle will fly once every two weeks, carrying cargo or passengers to an orbiting space station. Both the booster and the orbiter (which rides piggy-back) have two-man crews. After separation, the booster lands like an airliner, using ordinary jet engines, and is re-used. The orbiter completes its mission, then re-enters and lands conventionally, also to be used again. British Aircraft Corporation is doing design studies for the Shuttle.**

*by our Space Correspondent*

An astronaut of the 21st century may be able to pick and choose his next job, but today's spaceman undergoes years of rigorous training to prepare for a single mission. Moreover, he spends only a few days of actual time in space. James Lovell, commander of the Apollo 12 moon mission, is a good example. He has the most experience in space, yet in his seven years as an astronaut he has spent only 30 days in space. That means that between flights there are months and years of training, studying and more training.

Where do astronauts come from? Many are former jet pilots. The seven Mercury astronauts were chosen in 1958 from over 100 pilots who had volunteered to give up their flying careers for space training. Each of the seven was a test pilot with 1,500 hours flying time in jets. They were also qualified engineers and in perfect physical condition. Other astronauts have a scientific background, specialising in geology or astrophysics, for example.

During a one-week examination, teams of doctors probe into the mind and body of each trainee to make sure he is both mentally and physically fit to pilot a spacecraft through conditions varying from 8g to weightlessness.

Basic training for an American astronaut lasts 18 months. And it starts in the classroom —three days a week for the first four months, the astronauts' school bell rings at 8 a.m. at the Manned Spacecraft Centre in Houston, Texas.

Each lesson lasts two hours, after two lecture periods the astronauts take a two-hour break. But less than half of this is spent over lunch. Before they sit down at the table the men have a brisk work-out in the gym. Keeping in peak condition is essential, especially while they are studying.

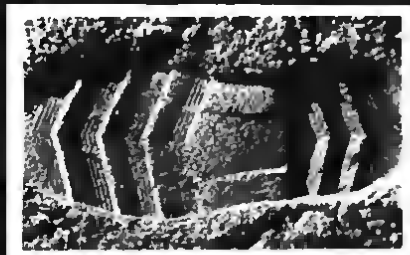
Half the instructors at the School for Astronauts are on the Houston staff. The other half are experts from leading universities who are brought in to lecture.

No astronaut gets to the top of his class, because there is no grading. But tests are carried out nearly every day.

Two days a week there's a break from school. This gives the trainees a chance to keep their jet-plane flying up to scratch or to get acquainted with the workings of Mission Control and have a look at the launch complex from which they will later blast off into space.

*Next week in Part 2: the astronauts are dropped by helicopter into a tropical jungle with three days to find their way out.*

## what's this?



**To many of you the answer is simple. No, it's not a Wellington boot on Yarmouth beach. Try somewhere a quarter of a million miles further away. It's a footprint of a space boot on the moon's surface.**

**In next week's COUNTDOWN we begin a great free competition. Look out for your chance to win a super space souvenir.**

***IN COUNTDOWN NO. 2***

SPACE SPOT

***WATCH OUT FOR SPACE SPOT A SERIES FOR THE SPACE ENTHUSIAST***

# Countdown

ART: JOHN BURNS
SPACECRAFT DESIGNS FROM THE MGM FILM 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

OUT IN THE BLACK VOID OF SPACE ON THE EDGE OF A GREAT SPIRAL GALAXY A SLIGHT PIN PRICK OF LIGHT MOVES ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLY TOWARDS THE PLANET OF ITS ORIGIN EARTH !

SPEEDING THROUGH SPACE AT 100 MILES PER SECOND

THIS IS THE EARTH SHIP **COUNTDOWN** FOR FIFTY YEARS THIS MAN MADE COMPLEX HAS DRIFTED THROUGH THE STARS TO HARVEST THE UNFATHOMABLE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE AND FULFIL MANKINDS AGE OLD DREAM AFTER A YEAR'S EXPLORATION OF THE STAR SYSTEM TAU CETI SHE IS NEARING JOURNEY'S END LESS THAN 10,000 MILLION MILES SEPARATES HER FROM HOME

INSIDE VAST BANKS OF ELECTRONIC BRAINS ENDLESSLY CALCULATE, MAP AND STORE THE FANTASTIC WORLD THAT PASSES BY

EACH WORLD OF THE CETI SYSTEM HAS BEEN ANALYSED ITS SURFACE, ITS ATMOSPHERE ITS FAUNA AND FLORA ALL CAREFULLY INDEXED

ON AND ON THROUGH MILES OF LINKING CORRIDORS UNTIL SOMEWHERE NEAR THE STERN OF THE CRAFT THE WAY IS BARRED BY A SEALED HATCH

CRYODORM

PASS THROUGH THE DOOR INTO THE ICY INTERIOR OF THIS MYSTERIOUS CELL WHERE THE TEMPERATURE IS CONTINUALLY MAINTAINED AT -4° CENTIGRADE

THE CREW

ALL SAVE ONE LONELY FIGURE THAT DOES NOT SLEEP. .

BIKLL NICKNAMED BILL BY THE EARTH CREW, HAS RETURNED WITH THE STARSHIP AS AN AMBASSADOR OF THE DISTANT PLANET BIROS FOUR HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN YEARS OLD AND VIRTUALLY AGELESS BY THE GENETIC VALUES OF HIS OWN RACE

BUT ON THE DISTANT JEWEL THAT IS THEIR TARGET TIMES HAVE CHANGED LIKE THE KALEIDESCOPIC PATTERNS OF HER SURFACE THE SPACE VIEW OF THIS SILENT BEAUTY BELIES THE TURBULENCE THAT IS HIDDEN BENEATH EARTH'S BLANKETING ATMOSPHERE

IF THE COUNTDOWN HAS SURVIVED SHE IS DUE TO PASS PLUTO WITHIN A WEEK

SHE SUCCEEDS IN COMPLETING THIS IMPOSSIBLE RENDEZVOUS I WANT HER DESTROYED

THE ONCE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF WASHINGTON RE NAMED COSTRA IN HONOUR OF NEW EARTH-CONTROLLER, EDWARD COSTRA LEADER OF THE SINISTER **COMPANY**. PAPA COSTRA HAS CALLED A TOP LEVEL CONFERENCE

BUT SIR !

SIT DOWN ! NOW, GENTLEMEN LET US PLAN THE DESTRUCTION OF THIS PANDORAS BOX !

THE CONTROLLER FOR THE LUNAR COLONIES IS QUICKLY ON HIS FEET

BUT WHY CONTROLLER ? THAT SHIP MUST CONTAIN A WEALTH OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY

THE LUNAR CONTROLLER WILL NOT QUESTION MY DECISION !

THAT SAME EVENING **THE CONTROLLER** CALLS TO HIS OFFICE THE COMMANDER OF HIS SECRET POLICE, THE DREADED ZEPHYR-MEN

WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS CONTROLLER

LUNAR CONTROLLER BELLINGHAM : I WANT HIM WATCHED HE SHOWS TOO MUCH SENSITIVITY FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMPANY

NEXT DAY THE LUNAR CONTROLLER MAKES THE RETURN JOURNEY TO HIS PEOPLE

IN THE TRANSIT LOUNGE OF THE GIANT SPACE WHEEL BELLINGHAM SPEAKS CONFIDENTIALLY TO HIS ASSISTANT LARRY MISSELL

BUT SAM WHAT CAN WE DO ? IT'S THE CONTROLLER'S DECISION

BUT IT'S INHUMAN VANDALISM ! I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, LARRY

AT 75,000 MILES PER HOUR THE STARSHIP COUNTDOWN DRIFTS EVER CLOSER

BIKLE THE ALIEN IS IN DEEP MEDITATION WHEN THE COLLISION ALERT SCREAMS ITS ELECTRONIC WARNING THROUGH THE SILENT SHIP

SWITCHING ON THE EXTREME DISTANCE SCANNER HE ATTEMPTS TO FIND WHAT HAS ACTIVATED THE COMPUTERISED SENTINEL AND AT LAST

A PROPELLED VEHICLE AN EARTH RECEPTION CRAFT PERHAPS

# CAPTAIN SCARLET

IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, A MARTIAN EXPLORATION EXPEDITION FROM EARTH LOCATES A STRANGE COMPLEX, BELIEVES IT TO BE HOSTILE, AND ATTACKS

ART: JOHN COOPER

BUT INCREDIBLY, THE SHATTERED BUILDINGS SEEM TO REPAIR THEMSELVES AND RETALIATION IS SWIFT!

THE MYSTERONS—FORMLESS BEINGS OF MARS—SWEAR ETERNAL VENGEANCE. THEY RE-CREATE THE EXPEDITION LEADER, CAPTAIN BLACK, TO BE THEIR AGENT ON EARTH

I ... WILL OBEY THE VOICE OF THE MYSTERONS!

THEY ALSO RE-CREATE CAPTAIN SCARLET BUT BY ACCIDENT, HE BREAKS THEIR INFLUENCE AND THUS BECOMES SPECTRUM'S NUMBER ONE WEAPON AGAINST THE MYSTERONS

IT'S INCREDIBLE, GENTLEMEN ... BUT AS A DOCTOR, I CAN STATE THAT CAPTAIN SCARLET IS ... INDESTRUCTIBLE!

CLOUDBASE—THE HOVER PLATFORM 40,000 FEET ABOVE EARTH THAT HOUSES THE SPECTRUM ORGANISATION. ON RECOVERY, CAPTAIN SCARLET GOES TO COLONEL WHITE FOR INTERVIEW

I UNDERSTAND, SIR

AS OUR MAIN INSTRUMENT IN DEALING WITH THE MYSTERON THREAT A LOT WILL BE ASKED OF YOU.

IT HAPPENS IN LONDON, AS A LONE POLICEMAN PATROLS HIS SOLITARY CITY BEAT

SUDDENLY

YAAARRRGH!

THEN, BY THE FANTASTIC POWER OF THE MYSTERONS, THE POLICEMAN IS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE ... AS THEIR AGENT!

I ... WILL OBEY.

SOON AFTER, AT SPECTRUM'S H.Q., THE WARNING COMES!

SPECTRUM

WE KNOW YOU CAN HEAR US, EARTHMEN! WE, THE MYSTERONS WILL DESTROY THE PRESIDENT!

WHICH PRESIDENT? THE WORLD PRESIDENT ... THE EUROPEAN PRESIDENT? PUT IT THROUGH ANALYSER GREEN

S.I.G., SIR!

SECONDS LATER

THAT MUST BE IT, SCARLET. THE ORAFI PRESIDENT IS DUE IN LONDON TODAY

I'M ON MY WAY, COLONEL

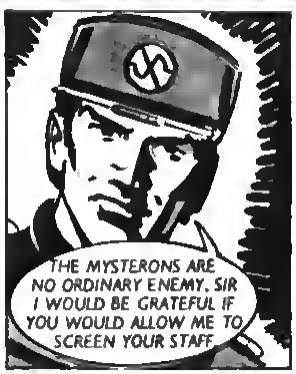
WITHIN SECONDS, A SPECTRUM PASSENGER JET LEAVES CLOUDBASE, ESCORTED BY TWO ANGEL FIGHTERS

WITH SCARLET, HIS FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE CAPTAIN BLUE

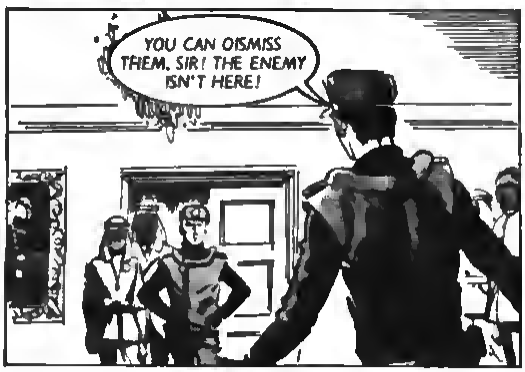
SOUNDS CRAZY, SCARLET! WHY ORAFI! HE'S JUST A SMALL FISH IN THE INTERNATIONAL POND!

YOU MAY BE RIGHT, BLUE, BUT THAT'S WHAT THE COMPUTER SAID AND IT'S OUR JOB TO TRY AND SAVE HIS LIFE!

THE ORAFI AMBASSADOR IS LESS AFFABLE
IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT ANYTHING COULD HAPPEN TO OUR BELOVED PRESIDENT HERE IN THE EMBASSY! MY SECURITY
NOW, NOW, AHMED IT PAYS TO TAKE NO CHANCES.

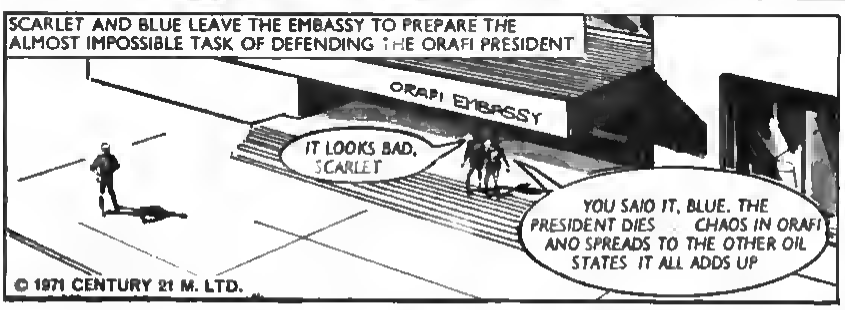


AND SOON CAPTAIN SCARLET IS CHECKING THE EMBASSY STAFF
HOW CAN HE POSSIBLY FIND A MYSTERON AGENT JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM?
HE HAS HIS WAY, EXCELLENCY.



I SUPPOSE WE HAVE TO THINK IN TERMS OF AN ASSASSIN, CAPTAIN . . ?
I THINK SO, MR. PRESIDENT CAN I ASK YOU TO CANCEL YOUR STATE PROCESSION TOMORROW?

IMPOSSIBLE! IF IT WERE KNOWN THAT OUR PRESIDENT WAS FRIGHTENED, THEN THE STRONG REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS IN OUR COUNTRY WOULD OVERTHROW HIM!


SCARLET AND BLUE LEAVE THE EMBASSY TO PREPARE THE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TASK OF DEFENDING THE ORAFI PRESIDENT
ORAFI EMBASSY
IT LOOKS BAD, SCARLET
YOU SAID IT, BLUE. THE PRESIDENT DIES . . CHAOS IN ORAFI AND SPREADS TO THE OTHER OIL STATES IT ALL ADDS UP
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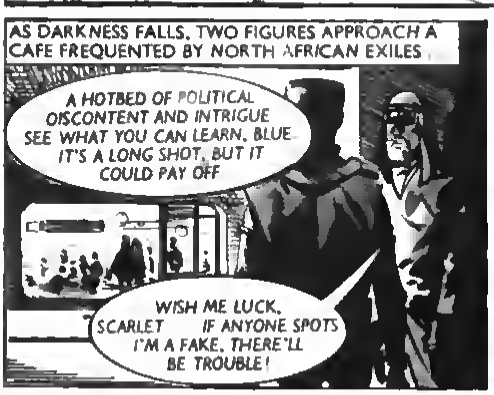
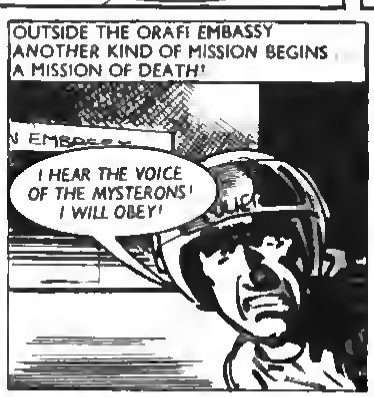
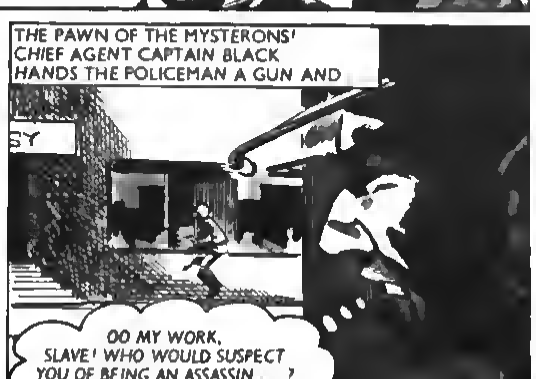

AS DARKNESS FALLS, TWO FIGURES APPROACH A CAFE FREQUENTED BY NORTH AFRICAN EXILES
A HOTBED OF POLITICAL DISCONTENT AND INTRIGUE SEE WHAT YOU CAN LEARN, BLUE IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT IT COULD PAY OFF
WISH ME LUCK, SCARLET IF ANYONE SPOTS I'M A FAKE, THERE'LL BE TROUBLE!





THE PAWN OF THE MYSTERONS! CHIEF AGENT CAPTAIN BLACK HANDS THE POLICEMAN A GUN AND
OO MY WORK, SLAVE! WHO WOULD SUSPECT YOU OF BEING AN ASSASSIN . . ?

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**MERCEDES-BENZ C111**

Speedwheels. Opening rear bonnet revealing detailed engine. Lift-up 'gull-wing' doors. Moulded windows, interior and seats. Transparent headlights.

**Model No. 224**

**The fast and famous LOTUS F1 RACING CAR**

Plated engine, exhaust pipes, suspension arms, radiator pipes, steering wheel and cockpit rearview mirrors. Wide tyres. Moulded driver. Airfoil stabiliser above engine.

**Model No. 225**

## THE BIG TOUGH

**FORD 0.800 SNOW PLOUGH AND TIPPER TRUCK**

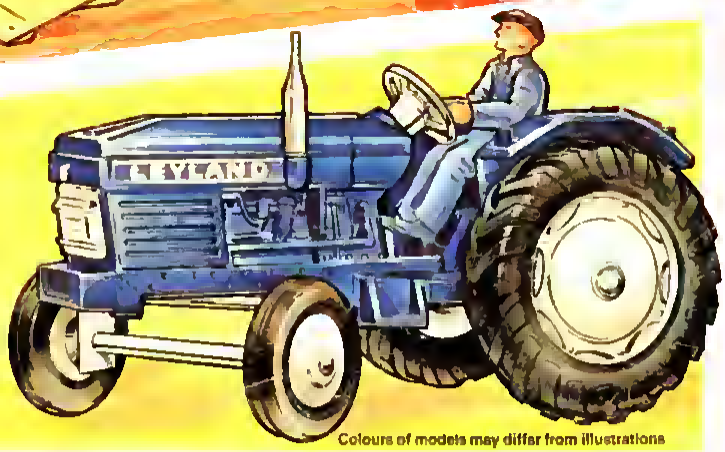
Opening doors. Opening tailgate. Tipping body. Pivoting snowplough blade with simulated hydraulic ram action. Moulded seats, windows and steering wheel.

**Model No. 439**

**LEYLAND 384 TRACTOR**

Hand-set steering on front wheels. Moulded tyres and driver. Rear towing hook.

**Model No. 308**




Colours of models may differ from illustrations

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the tough, action-packed models